United Nations A/63/117/Add.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 September 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Item 91 (x) of the provisional agenda*
General and complete disarmament

Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

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* A/63/150 and Corr.1.

** The information presented in this document was received after the submission of the main report.

08-50130 (E) 250908

Mauritius

[Original: English]
[15 July 2008]

1. In Mauritius, all arms and ammunition which are normally meant for civilian use, are subject to control by the Police and Customs Departments at our entry and exit points. Every person willing to import a firearm should, prior to importation, apply to the Commissioner of Police for an Import Licence. The imported weapon is delivered to the Police and it is only after verification that it is handed over to the owner. Moreover, any person wishing to possess a firearm should apply to the Commissioner of Police for a Firearm Licence, which is renewed yearly in person and on production of the firearm, for better control. Firearms and ammunition are closely monitored by the Central Firearms Index as provided under the Firearms Act 2006.

2. This legislation, inter alia, limits the number of firearms an individual can possess. However arms and ammunition acquired by the Police and which are meant for civilian use as opposed to use in a military context, do not follow the above procedure but are procured under the Government budget following strict control by the concerned authorities. In the military context, conventional arms mean arms other than nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. We do not have any experience in the use of conventional weapons. The acquisition or transfer of conventional weapons should, in the opinion of the Government, be under strict budgetary, civilian and parliamentary control.